

# Doctor Declares Ford In Excellent Condition

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By Stuart Auerbach

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President Ford was pronounced in excellent physical shape yesterday by the man he had just appointed as his new White House physician, Dr. William M. Lukash.

Lukash, 43, a Navy rear admiral who has been on the White House medical staff since Lyndon B Johnson was President, succeeds Dr. Walter Tkach. Tkach, an Air Force major general, moved to San Clemente with former President Nixon.

Lukash's major job is keeping tabs on the health of the President, although he will also be family doctor to all the Fords.

He said Mr. Ford "has no medical problems whatsoever." His last physical checkup, last February at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, showed the President was in excellent shape. The results of all tests were in the normal range, the White House reported.

Lukash praised Mr. Ford's love of exercise—his habit of swimming 40 laps every day and playing golf whenever he can. The exercise, Lukash said, gives the President "a better sense of well being" as well as keeping him physically fit.

"I'm blessed with a patient who has an understanding of physical fitness," he said.

Although Mr. Ford will lose the heated swimming pool in the backyard of his Alexandria home, which he uses winter and summer, he will have tennis courts at the White House. The doctor indicated that the President may start playing tennis again.

Mr. Ford, a college football player, has been known for his good health. He had a knee operation two years ago to correct an old football injury, but has been exercising daily with weights to strengthen his leg.

He is also known for his relaxed demeanor, gets to sleep easily and needs only five or six hours of sleep a night.

Lukash said he expects to have easy access to the President and plans to give him a checkup soon.

The new White House physician is a specialist in internal medicine and stomach disorders. While working as the No. 2 doctor at the White House, he served as a department head at Bethesda Naval Hospital.